

APPLICANT(S): Roman VITENBERG  
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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 25: (Previously cancelled)

<sup>1</sup>  
~~26~~. (Previously Presented) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line; and

a control tone transmitter to transmit a control signal to which a central office modem in a central office (CO) of a communication system is not receptive for signaling said at least one other NDSL modem to be ready to receive data packets.

<sup>2</sup>  
~~27~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~26~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~28~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~26~~ and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~29~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>3</sup>~~28~~ wherein said transmitter and receiver perform time division multiplexing (TDM).


<sup>5</sup>  
~~30~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~26~~ and also comprising an RF transceiver for control of a home device.

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<sup>6</sup>  
~~31~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~26~~<sup>1</sup> and also comprising a DSL modem to communicate with said CO along said xDSL telephone line.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~32~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~31~~<sup>6</sup> and wherein said DSL modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~33~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim ~~31~~<sup>6</sup> wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

  
<sup>9</sup>  
~~34~~. (Previously Presented) A network DSL (NDSL) modem for communicating on an xDSL telephone line, the NDSL modem comprising:

a DSL modem to communicate with a central office (CO) of a communication system along said xDSL telephone line; and

a network modem to communicate along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line with at least one other NDSL modem connected in a subscriber premises to said xDSL telephone line.

<sup>10</sup>  
~~35~~. (Currently Amended) The modem according to claim ~~34~~<sup>9</sup> and wherein said network modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and an upstream frequency band receiver and said DSL modem comprises an upstream frequency band transmitter and a downstream frequency band receiver.

<sup>14</sup>  
~~36~~. (Currently Amended) The modem according to claim ~~46~~<sup>13</sup>~~34~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

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<sup>11</sup>  
~~37~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>9</sup>~~34~~ wherein said network modem performs time division multiplexing (TDM) and said DSL modem operates according to the xDSL protocol.

<sup>12</sup>  
~~38~~. (Previously Presented) The modem according to claim <sup>9</sup>~~34~~ wherein said network modem exchanges data with said at least one other NDSL modem during time periods in which none of said NDSL modems is communicating with said CO.

<sup>15</sup>  
~~39~~. (Previously Presented) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication to a central office modem in a CO of a communication system is desired, transmitting data to the CO modem in an xDSL upstream frequency band and receiving data therefrom in an xDSL downstream frequency band;

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

transmitting a control signal to which said central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

<sup>16</sup>  
~~40~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>15</sup>~~39~~ wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

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<sup>17</sup> 41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>15</sup> 39 wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM) and wherein said transmitting and receiving comprises operating according to the xDSL protocol.

<sup>18</sup> 42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>15</sup> 39 wherein ~~a said second transmitting does not occur when said first transmitting and receiving occurs.~~ said two transmitting steps do not occur at generally the same time.

<sup>19</sup> 43. (Previously Presented) A method for communication on an xDSL telephone line, the method comprising:

when communication between at least two NDSL modems connected to said telephone line in a subscriber premises is desired:

determining that none of the NDSL modems are communicating with a central office modem in a CO of a communication system;

if no NDSL modems are communicating, transmitting a control signal to which a central office modem is not receptive; and

while said control signal is transmitting, communicating data among said at least two NDSL modems along an upstream frequency band of said xDSL line.

<sup>20</sup> 44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>19</sup> 43 wherein said control signal is at a frequency not used for communication between said NDSL modem and said central office modem.

<sup>21</sup> 45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>19</sup> 43 wherein said communicating comprises performing time division multiplexing (TDM).

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46. (New) The modem according to claim ~~34~~ wherein said network modem comprises a control tone transmitter to transmit a control signal to which a central office modem in a central office (CO) of a communication system is not receptive for signaling said at least one other NDSL modem to be ready to receive data packets.

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